V.B.2.N.a. LINARIA VULGARIS, CIRSIUM ARVENSE – MIXED FORBS HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Butter-and-Eggs / Mixed Graminoids Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation Alliance [Provisional]

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ELEMENT CONCEPT

GLOBAL SUMMARY: Not applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

USFWS Wetland System: Palustrine

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Environment: *Linaria vulgaris* forms dense stands or patches, typically less than 0.25 ha in size, on upper floodplain terraces of flowing streams and in the bottom of moist swales. Groundwater is usually present within 25–50 cm of the soil surface. The distribution of *Linaria vulgaris* is generally at the lower elevations in drainages throughout the monument, where it occurs sporadically in patches with *Dasiphora fruticosa, Juncus balticus, Bromus inermis,* and *Cirsium arvense*.

Global Environment: Not applicable

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Vegetation: *Linaria vulgaris* forms dense, but small, stands in association with *Dasiphora fruticosa, Juncus balticus, Bromus inermis,* and *Cirsium arvense*, among others. It is easily observed later in the growing season because of its medium-yellow-colored flowers. This exotic forb is between 0.5 and 1 m tall and may provide foliar cover from 50–55% in each patch. It is usually a component of another moist soil plant community. In one stand sampled, *Juncus balticus* was present at approximately 40% foliar cover and *Bromus inermis* at approximately 5% foliar cover; the plot was assigned to *Juncus balticus* Herbaceous Vegetation (CEGL001838). The ground cover is typically dense with litter, usually from 90–100% and up to 5 cm thick. Stands occur on nearly flat slopes of floodplain terraces and at nearly all aspects. Stands of *Linaria vulgaris* are being actively managed by monument staff, using a combination of mowing and herbicide application to stress the stands and to reduce seed production.

The aerial photo signature for stands of *Linaria vulgaris* are dark gray to black on true color photos.

Global Vegetation: Not applicable

Global Dynamics: Not applicable

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM

Stratum	Species
Short Shrub	*Dasiphora fruticosa*
Forb	*Linaria vulgaris*
Graminoid	*Juncus balticus, Bromus inermis*

Global

Stratum	Species
Forb	*Linaria vulgaris*

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM

Stratum	Species
Forb	*Linaria vulgaris, Cirsium arvense*
Graminoid	*Juncus balticus, Bromus inermis, Elymus repens*

Global

Stratum	Species
Forb	*Linaria vulgaris*

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM

Global Stratum	**Species**

GLOBAL SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS:
Cirsium arvense Mixed Forbs Herbaceous Alliance

GLOBAL STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION COMMENTS

Global Conservation Status Rank: GW

Global Classification Comments:

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Range: This association is represented by small stands or patches along several drainages and moist swales in the monument, particularly along Grape Creek and its tributaries. The small stands occupy upper floodplain terraces, particularly oxbow bends, to the ecotone with upland vegetation.

Global Range: Not applicable

Nations: US
States/Provinces: CO

ELEMENT SOURCES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Inventory Notes: This was represented by one stand.
Classification Confidence: **Identifier:** Not determined
REFERENCES: